

Laughlin chapel throws ‘back to school’ party, page 11

Border Eagle

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Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

Sept. 3, 2004

Laughlin inducts new SNCOs, NCOs

Story by Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein
Editor

Within a one week span, Laughlin honored two groups of recent promoted Team XL members with induction ceremonies.

The first ceremony, held Aug. 27, recognized 25 senior airman who recently were selected for staff sergeant.

The ceremony began with each promotee’s name being announced followed by the colors, national anthem and the invocation. Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Prothro, 47th Communication Squadron, was the guest speaker for the event.

He told the Air Force’s newest NCOs about their new responsibilities. “You are now ‘They’,” he said referring to management.

While outlining the NCO’s jobs

See ‘NCOs’, page 4



Photo by Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Ostrom, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron, and his fiancée Sabrina Bolte, walk through the saber guard kicking off the Senior NCO Induction Ceremony Wednesday at the Fiesta Center.

Armed Forces Voters Week focuses on assisting units

By Maj. Brad Wensel
47th Flying Training Wing
voting assistance officer

With the November 2004 general election almost upon us, and registration deadlines even sooner, time is running out for citizens who want to participate in this year’s election.

This is why the Secretary of Defense has decreed Sept. 3 to 11, 2004 as Armed Forces Voters Week. This week is the last safe week to submit a Federal Post Card Application, SF-76, request for registration and or an absentee ballot prior to most state deadlines. The goal for Armed Forces Voters Week is simple: Attain 100 percent contact and in-hand delivery of FPCAs

to all personnel.

There are 57 Unit Voting Assistance Counselors at Laughlin assigned to every unit in the Wing.

UVACs are tasked to provide voting assistance and support to every member assigned to their unit. Most personnel assigned to Laughlin AFB are registered to vote in their home districts and must therefore vote by absentee ballot. To do so, obtain a Federal Post Card application from your UVAC, fill it out in accordance with your state’s requirements as specified in the Voting Assistance Guide, and mail the card to your home district. The SF-76 serves two purposes: to register you to vote in your state of legal residence, and to request an official

absentee ballot. Your UVAC will help you with this process. Eligible dependents may also vote absentee by filling out and submitting an SF-76.

Personnel who desire to become legal residents of Val Verde County may also register to vote locally if they choose. Those desiring to do so are encouraged to consult with the legal office before changing your state of residency as there may be important tax implications.

Personnel deploying prior to the election can vote via the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot from their deployed location. However, personnel must have filled out and submitted a

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Newsline

Main gate closure

Laughlin’s main gate closed at 5:30 a.m. today and reopens 5:30 a.m. Tuesday. The west gate will be open 24 hours a day during this time.

Liberty Drive will also be closed from the main gate to Arkansas Blvd. from Saturday through Tuesday.

New Pass and ID hours

To reduce front-gate congestion, the 47th Security Forces Squadron Pass and ID office will begin new hours Mondays through Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m.

Also, registration of vehicles on base is due Sept. 30. Base members, who have not registered their vehicles, are mandated to do so to avoid delays at the gates.

All base members are also encouraged to affix the Laughlin AFB decal to their windshields.

For details, call Senior Airman Nicolas Salazar at 298-5349.

Retirement ceremony

A retirement ceremony for Lt. Col. David Turner, 47th Operations Group, will be held at 4 p.m. today in Classroom E of Anderson Hall. To R.S.V.P., call Mary Heinrich at 298-5238.

Deployment stats

Deployed:	56
Returning in 30 days:	13
Deploying in 30 days:	17

Mission status

(As of Wednesday)

Days behind or ahead:

T-37, -9.60	T-1, 2.48
T-38, 1.08	T-6, -7.56

Mission capable rate:

T-37, 89.0%	T-1, 81.1%
T-38, 70.6%	T-6, 80.0%

Laughlin changes aid mission success



Commander's Corner

By Britten Gambrel
*47th Maintenance Directorate
component maintenance division chief*

Physical changes too numerous to mention or even to remember have come about in the more than a quarter of a century that I have lived and worked at Laughlin Air Force Base. The once brown desert entry to the base is now lush rolling green carpets of grass dotted with "xero-scaped" gardens. Memorial airplanes now flank the main entrance.

Further down Liberty Drive, a flashing neon marquee displays upcoming events for the base. A post office and library now operate in the former base exchange facility. Data automation and base contracting, which used to be in the wing headquarters area, have long since been in new homes. A new education office is being constructed on land that was once the Base Exchange "Four Seasons" store, and later the home of records management. There have been new constructions for civil engineers, base supply, fire department, 47th Operations Group simulator building, a dining hall, Anderson Hall, mission support. Modern dormitories have replaced all of the old wooden barracks. Most base housing units have been renovated to provide better homes for the military families.

In 1996, a clinic emerged from what was then a new hospital built in 1978, which had inpatient rooms and a nursery for newborns; today it's undergoing a \$7 million renovation.

Soon there will be a new fitness center, complete with an indoor swimming pool and running track and a new wing headquarters. Gone are most of the older buildings with their creaking wooden floors and musty smells.

If you get nostalgic for the old days you can visit Building 348, which used to be finance, where we went to get paid (in cash) for going on temporary duty assignments.

Now we file our vouchers in something called "Defense Travel System" and get paid three days later if we were lucky enough to push the right keys and nothing gets rejected. You could also stop by manpower or the Thrift Shop in Building 301 or visit Heritage Hall on Liberty Drive; but hurry, at the rate new construction is developing, they probably won't last long.

Besides the physical changes there have been changes in the uniforms worn by Laughlin personnel. In 1989, the 47th Field Maintenance and 47th Operation Maintenance were deactivated and the wing converted to the first Civil Service Aircraft Maintenance in Air Education and Training Command. In 1997, part of that civil service operation, the engine repair center was converted to a contract operation.

In 1996, the 47th Logistics Squadron was inactivated and base operating support functions became a contracted operation. Within a decade, 800 military jobs were converted to fewer than 500 civil service or contract-managed positions. Gone are the hour-long lines at the commissary on payday Saturdays, and likewise, no more year-long waits to get base housing.

The changes brought about by modern facilities and technologies enable us to work smarter and provide a better quality of life for us and our families. The change in our workforce has in no way hindered Laughlin's mission. The entire Laughlin community, whether they are military, civilian, or contractors work together as a team.

Many of our military members come from tours at many other bases and bring innovations, technologies and techniques. The permanent workforce, the civilians and contract employees, learn from the military. These

"The changes brought about by modern facilities and technologies enable us to work smarter and provide a better quality of life for us and our families. The change in our workforce has in no way hindered Laughlin's mission. The entire Laughlin community, whether they are military, civilian, or contractors work together as a team."

permanent folks provide the continuity – the glue that is the backbone of the base. They ensure that the job gets done during the transition period when our military force is on its way in or out or when our military members are called upon to deploy to keep our nation free of terrorists.

Every member of the Laughlin community – from the security forces guard waving us on to the base, to the finance troop making sure our pay is correct, to the medical provider and technician making sure we are in good health, to the dining facility providing our meals, to the Services member providing golf, bowling, movies and other activities for our leisure time, to the education office offering the means to make us smarter, to the contracting officer making sure our trash is picked up and our runways are kept in repair, to the civil engineer keeping our air-conditioners working and our roofs from leaking, to the maintainer who makes sure the airplanes are safe and ready for our students to learn to fly—contributes to making the Laughlin AFB mission a success. In the last 25 years, buildings have been razed, rebuilt and reclad. Landscapes have been rounded out, watered, sodded, and seeded. The military population decreased nearly 60 percent; but the reason Laughlin is here at all remains constant.

We're here to train expeditionary airpower experts to fight and win America's wars.

Border Eagle

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Deadlines

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

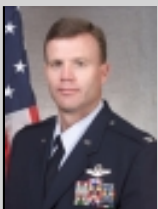
Submissions can be e-mailed to: **timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil** or **sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil**.

Advertising

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Actionline

Col. Tod Wolters
47th Flying Training
Wing commander



Call 298-5351 or email
actionline@laughlin.af.mil

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By including your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also useful if more information is needed to pursue your inquiry. We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved. Please keep e-mails brief.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions. Below are telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES	298-3176
Chapel	298-5111
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Contracting	298-5439
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
Finance	298-5204
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

“Through trust and teamwork, train expeditionary airpower experts to fight and win America’s wars.”

– 47th Flying
Training Wing
mission statement

‘Thank you’ can make difference

Time to appreciate military members performing duties even in hard times

By Geoff Janes
78th Air Base Wing public affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Have you ever watched someone right before he or she cries? It's a very humbling experience.

Picture Staff Sgt. So-and-So getting off the refueling plane at his home station. He puts his right foot on the flight line and looks around for his family or friends. It has only been 45 days, but it feels like an eternity.

In the waiting crowd, there she stands — all 39 inches of her — smile wide as the Nile, flag in her hand. “Daddy!!!” she cries.

He drops his bags, leans down and swoops her up like a stack of money. But her grasping little arms around his neck are worth more than any paycheck, more than any 5,000 square-foot house, Jaguar, Mercedes, Ping golf clubs, CDs, whatever.

“I'm home,” he whispers softly in his wife's ear before looking skyward to his God. It feels so good to know someone was waiting.

The commander, or vice commander steps up, shakes his hand. It matters.

“What I've been doing matters,” he thinks.

Back at his home-station job, he left work early today. He has cooked dinner, and only wants to make his wife smile.

At another time, someplace else, a female warrior straightens the collar on her uniform as she steps off the surveillance plane. She stands proud. She didn't have to worry about anything. He had it covered.

In the crowd her son holds a piece of poster board that he and daddy have written “Welcome Home Mommy” in black magic marker. Her little angel has cut out pictures from his favorite comic book and pasted them to the poster.

Everyone needs a hero. Blue, brown, green and hazel eyes, they all well up like someone has turned on a faucet. The eye brims, it leaks, it breaks the dam of an eyelid and streams down a face covered with sadness and happiness mixed with uncertainty.

They are home, and all you can do is watch, watch and pray for good things. Pray for happiness, pray for peace, pray for all of them.

And as you watch the homecoming, you think, “If you haven't thanked a military member lately, you should.”

They are out there facing the mortars, listening to the snap of rounds firing above their heads, not to mention those who hear the snap that slams into their chests, arms, legs... Even so, there are some who move out sharply while a voice in the back of their head asks, “Was it worth the money for college?”

All the while, you're in your colonial, Cape Cod or ranch style house, watching it all on CNN.

You might be watching it all from the warmth and safety of your living room.

You might be numb; but still, your next door neighbor's son came home in a box today. Your cousin's daughter won't be finishing college. She died in the heat of battle last week.

I remember being on the Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind., burial team during my time in the Army. I remember saluting the dead. I remember carrying a coffin to a hole in the ground and thanking God it wasn't me.

And I remember the tears,

“They are out there facing the mortars, listening to the snap of rounds firing above their heads, not to mention those who hear the snap that slams into their chests, arms, legs.”

tears that could humble even a saint.

Maybe I'll go tell my neighbor, with his Air Force flag and his starched uniform, how much I appreciate what he's been doing for my country.

Maybe we'll talk politics or religion, maybe we'll talk about fishing, or how good it feels to be helping a country that needs a hand.

Maybe we'll smile and have a beer as we talk about how lucky we are to live in a free country. And all the while, I'll know in my heart that it's all because of people just like my neighbor.

I think we all need to remember the fact that our friends and family members who wear the uniform press on with their duties regardless of the world situation. There are people joining the military heartily despite the fact that there's a war going on.

Other countries in the world have had their armies disintegrate because of casualties. Their people were not dedicated to the cause they served.

That is what separates them from the mightiest nation on earth, the United States of America.

Just as with POW/MIA Day, we must always remember. So the next time you see someone in a military uniform, take two seconds out of your day to say thanks.

Voting, from page 1

Federal Post Card Application to their state of residency prior to deploying. A UVAC will be on hand when a PDF line is established to assist deploying personnel with their voting needs.

To assist Laughlin members and their dependents during Armed Forces Voters Week, voting tables will be set up at several high traffic areas from 1000-1400 daily in accordance with the following schedule:

Sept. 7: Medical Group, (Building 540)

Sept. 8: Mission Support Squadron (Building 246)
Sept. 9 and 10: Anderson Hall (Building 320)

Additionally, Ms. Loly Garcia from the Val Verde County Voter Registrar’s office will provide assistance to personnel who want to register to vote locally. She will be located at the Base Exchange from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 7 to 8, and at the Commissary from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 9 to 10. A UVAC will also be located at Ms. Garcia’s voting table to assist personnel who want to vote absentee via the Federal Post Card Application.

It is our right and responsibility to vote as U.S.

citizens. These elections could seriously affect you and your fellow servicemen. This year the American people will elect the President and Vice-President, 34 U.S. Senators, the entire House of Representatives, 13 State Governors and thousands of local officers and referenda. Military medical and retirement benefits are just some of the issues at stake. Don’t let someone else decide your future!

Please refer any questions or concerns to your Unit Voting Assistance Counselor (see below). Further assistance can be obtained by calling the Wing Voting Hotline at 298-5873.

Base Unit Voting Assistance Counselors

Squadron/Unit	Name	Phone	Squadron/Unit	Name	Phone
47th Civil Engineer Squadron	1st Lt. Meg White	298-5253	84th FTS	1st Lt. Alan Dick	298-4777
47th CES	Master Sgt. Michael Sweet	298-5633	84th FTS	1st Lt. Drew Badgett	298-4783
47th CES	Staff. Sgt. Michael Patterson	298-5633	85th FTS	Capt. Matthew Minkley	298-5521
47th Communications Squadron	1st Lt. Michancy Schultz	298-5542	85th FTS	1st Lt. Steven Henderson	298-5243
47th CS	Senior Master Sgt. Bruce Hoch	298-4357	85th FTS	1st Lt. Michael Reilly	298-5848
47th CS	Airman 1st Class Matthew Rall	298-4366	85th FTS	Capt. Katrina Gieselman	298-4751
47th Contracting Squadron	Master Sgt. Ri’Chard Crivens	298-5116	85th FTS	1st Lt. Nannette Menath	298-4757
47th CONS	Tech. Sgt. Christopher Trujillo	298-4257	85th FTS	Capt. Brad Dyer	298-5355
47th Flying Training Wing staff	2nd Lt. Sheila Johnston	298-4036	86th FTS	Capt. Scott Segal	298-5162
47th FTW	Yvonne Ford	298-5432	86th FTS/Wing	Maj. Brad Wensel	298-5990
47th FTW/CPTF	Staff. Sgt. Manny Laureles	298-5231	86th FTS	1st Lt. Charlie Eichner	298-5011
47th FTW/HC	Senior Airman Jacob Rivera	298-5111	86th FTS	1st Lt. Andy Cavallero	298-5378
47th FTW safety	Capt. Derek Martin	298-5681	86th FTS	Maj. Lon Schmidt	298-5443
47th FTW	Senior Airman Sharee Branson	298-4137	86th FTS	Capt. Joe Anderson	298-5725
47th Mission Support Group	Capt. Jamie Wade	298-5304	86th FTS	Capt. Nelson Bennett	298-4243
47th Mission Support Squadron	2nd Lt. Tiffany Ewton	298-5244	87th FTS	1st Lt. Matthew Strohmeier	298-5112
47th MSS	Staff. Sgt. Myrna Garcia	298-5244	87th FTS	1st Lt. Brad Caywood	298-5112
47th MSS	Chris Lowry	298-4362	87th FTS	Capt. Kevin Cossey	298-5920
47th Medical Group	Lt. Naomi Vestel	298-6421	87th FTS	2nd Lt. Joshua Ney	298-5509
47th Aeromedical Squadron	Master Sgt. Tracy Patterson	298-6341	47th Operations Support Squadron	Capt. Barb Costa	298-5972
47th ADS	Tech. Sgt. Daniel Beary	298-6806	47th OSS	Senior Master Sgt. Chris Evert	298-4350
47th Medical Support Squadron	Master Sgt. Glynis Sims-Bonds	298-6454	47th OSS	Master Sgt. Robert Ochs	298-5434
47th Operations group	1st Lt. Joseph Watson	298-5293	47th OSS	Tech. Sgt. William Bartram	298-5300
84th Flying Training Squadron	1st Lt. Stacie Pratt	298-5726	47th OSS	Tech. Sgt. Steven Bromley	298-5312
84th FTS	1st Lt. Eric Cobbs	298-4754	47th OSS	Capt. Tonnee Tonnesen	298-5359
84th FTS	2nd Lt. Matt Kenkel	298-5140	47th Services Division	1st Lt. Andre Clark	298-4340
84th FTS	1st Lt. Matt Ferris	298-4775	47th Security Forces Squadron	Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Wallace	298-5861

NCOs, from page 1

and responsibilities, Chief Prothro said to “remember the Air Force Core Values as they will guide you.”

Five days later, Team XLers turned out in sharp mess dress and semi-formal uniforms to induct 13 master-sergeant selects into the senior NCO ranks.

The evening started with the master sergeant selects entering the dining area by walking under a saber arch

provided by the honor guard. After a moment to remember prisoners of war and those still missing in action and the invocation, dinner was served.

After the dinner, Col. Tod Wolters, 47th Flying Training Wing commander and guest speaker for the night, spoke about the importance of the event and the value of NCOs.

He began by thanking the family members of the inductees.

“A huge bit of gratitude goes out to the loved ones of the 13 inductees,”

he said. “Without them none of this would be possible.”

Colonel Wolters characterized NCOs as the backbone of the military and said he was very proud of the 13 honorees because, “the Air Force selects only the very best to serve as master sergeant.”

Following Colonel Wolters’ speech, a candle lighting ceremony was held to symbolize an NCO’s progression to the senior NCO ranks.

The new senior NCOs were then

charged with their new responsibilities.

The evening ended with the honorees leading the congregation in the Air Force song.

Tech. Sgt. Eric Adams, 47th Communications Squadron maintenance support NCO and master sergeant select, said the ceremony meant a lot to him.

“It is an excellent tradition,” he said. “It made me feel good that we were presented this honor in front of our family, peers and coworkers.”

Sexual assault prevention, response report released

Report designed to inform leaders of potential improvements

By Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – The Air Force has released a study that assessed the service’s sexual assault prevention and response capabilities. The 96-page document titled, Report Concerning the Assessment of USAF Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, was released Monday. In February 2004, the secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force chief of staff requested an assessment of sexual assault prevention and response capabilities, including areas needing improvement. The Air Force performed a qualitative assess-

ment that generated findings to inform senior leaders of potential program improvements. Michael L. Dominguez, assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs, and Lt. Gen. Roger A. Brady, deputy chief of staff for personnel, supervised the assessment. The assessment’s findings and recommendations were briefed to Air Force senior leaders May 18 at CORONA Top. They approved a campaign plan to address the findings and to further develop the recommended solutions. Air Force three-star leaders met at a summit Aug. 16 to discuss proposed solutions. “The most important thing we learned is that sexual assault is a very complex subject,” General Brady said. “And it’s a subject that we probably didn’t understand very well. So this report helps us educate our commanders,

our supervisors, our people and ourselves so that we know what we’re dealing with, and we can attack the problem aggressively. “We want to do something about it because it obviously affects the quality of life for our people; it affects our readiness; it affects our ability to conduct our mission,” he said. Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley, in a February tasking memorandum to all major command commanders, established five goals for the assessment: ■ Strive to eliminate sexual assault and any environment that fosters it. ■ Ensure an environment where victims have the confidence to report sexual assault. ■ Conduct appropriate investigation and prosecution. ■ Address victims’ well-being and health as effectively as possible. ■ Ensure commanders and senior leaders oversee program effectiveness.

“We want to send a very clear message,” General Brady said. “It is that sexual assault, or any behavior anywhere approaching this, is absolutely inconsistent with our core values and everything that we believe. It is unacceptable. “When we find people

who are involved in this kind of activity, these are not people we need in our Air Force,” he said. “We also need to make sure that anyone who is a victim of such a crime knows that we’re going to handle it discreetly, we’re going to be aggressive in not only pursuing justice for the individual and the system, but we’re also going to show all of the compassion and show all the support we can (to individuals) as they proceed through what for them is a very traumatic event.” Twenty significant findings are listed in the report, as well as 14 recommendations. Findings and recommendations focused on six topic areas: sexual assault realities; policy and leadership; education and training; reporting; response; and air and space expeditionary forces and deployment. Each topic area except sexual assault realities contains a series of recommendations. “We’re already using what we have found,” General Brady said. “We did not wait until we got ready to publish the report,” he said. “As soon as we started having consistent findings from across our Air Force, we put out guidance to our commanders, for example, to establish victim-support liaisons. We are using this re-

port to educate ourselves about the nature of this crime, about the environment we currently have in the Air Force and to build the programs we need to create the environment where we build greater trust. I think it will help us move toward eradicating a behavior that is totally unacceptable. “We already have Air Education and Training Command building most of our education programs for this,” the general said. “We’re developing programs that begin with Airmen coming to Lackland, officers coming in to various accession forces, noncommissioned officer academies, commander’s schools, etc. We want to have consistent messages, appropriate to the audience, across the ranks. And we are educating our leaders to deal with these problems wherever they’re faced.” The cornerstone of this effort was a series of self-assessments conducted by major commands focusing on each one’s sexual assault prevention and response capabilities. A headquarters integrated planning team undertook a parallel effort to review established policies, conduct corporate and university benchmarking, and engage in sexual assault subject-matter experts external to the Air Force. Representatives from the MAJCOMs and the headquarters teams worked together to capture findings and develop recommendations.

See ‘Assault’, page 9

Public Notice

The Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations will conduct an accreditation survey of **47th Medical Group** on **Sept. 27 through Oct. 1.**

The purpose of the survey will be to evaluate the organization’s compliance with nationally established Joint Commission standards. The survey results will be used to determine whether, and the conditions under which, accreditation should be awarded the organization.

Joint commission standards deal with organization quality and safety-of-care issues and the safety of the environment in which care is provided. Anyone believing that he or she has pertinent and valid information about such matters may request a public information interview with the Joint Commission’s field representatives at the time of survey. Information presented at the interview will be carefully evaluated for relevance to the accreditation process. Requests for a public information interview must be made in writing and should be sent to the Joint Commission no later than five working days before the survey begins. The request must also indicate the nature of the information to be provided at the interview. Such requests should be addressed to.

Division of Accreditation Operations
Office of Quality Monitoring
Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization
One Renaissance Boulevard
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181
or
Faxed to **(630) 792-5636**
or
E-mailed to **complaint@jcaho.org**

The Joint Commission’s Office of Quality Monitoring will acknowledge in writing or by telephone requests received 10 days before the survey begins. An Account Representative will contact the individual requesting the public information interview prior to survey, indicating the location, date, and time of the interview and the name of the surveyor who will conduct the interview.

This notice is posted in accordance with the Joint Commission’s requirements and many not be removed before the survey is complete.

Date Posted: **Sept. 3, 2004**

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system at
[https://ideas.
randolph.af.mil](https://ideas.randolph.af.mil)
or call Tech. Sgt.
Thomas Mayo at
298-4355.**

Nigerian advance fee fraud scam returns



Legal Spotlight

By Capt. Preston Young
Legal office

The Federal Trade Commission and other interested agencies are reporting an increase of Americans, including military members and their families, being solicited by scam artists pushing the “Nigerian Advance Fee Fraud.”

Perpetrators of this scheme, internationally known as “4-1-9” fraud, after the section of the Nigerian penal code which addresses fraud schemes, are creatively designed to target a person’s compassion and greed.

Generally the scheme involves a solicitation from a supposed Nigerian that is convincingly educated and polite, and who is promising big profits in exchange for assistance in moving large sums of money out of their country.

The Nigerian Advance Fee Fraud has been around for years but its re-

cent resurgence has been blamed on a weak economy, the imbalance between kindness and prudence for some and the desperation of others to “get-rich-quick” at all costs.

The alleged Nigerian makes unsolicited contact with the unsuspecting target often claiming to be someone of wealth, importance and holding a position of trust who is seeking a reputable individual into whose bank account he can deposit millions of dollars. The 4-1-9 scam changes depending on who the perpetrator is purporting to be; the exorbitant amount of cash may be explained away as an over-invoiced government contract by a so-called government official, a real estate venture by an apparent businessman or the beneficiary’s share of a will if the perpetrator claims to be the widower.

If a target responds to the scam artist’s initial inquiry, he may receive forged or false documents to support the fraudulent claim, including documents bearing apparent official Nigerian government letterhead and seals or false letters of credit, payment

schedules and bank drafts.

Sophisticated versions of this scheme often require the intended victim to travel to Nigeria or a border country to complete the transaction or establish meetings between the victim and the criminal in real or fake government offices. Typically, the victim will be asked to sign documents as proof of a contract, to provide their bank account information and submit money to cover the transaction, to include possibly transfer costs and attorneys fees. A commonality of the scheme that never changes, however, is this request for a small amount of money needed to close the deal and receive the windfall of riches.

The goal of this trickery is to make the target think that he is being drawn into a very lucrative, albeit questionable, arrangement. The victim must be reassured and confident that the deal will be successful, which is the reason for the fraudster’s emphasis on professionalism and legitimacy. Once the intended victim is comfortable with this notion he will be more willing to contribute a greater amount of money

when the deal suddenly becomes threatened and requires a larger influx of cash on the victim’s part to save the venture. This threat may come in the form of an unforeseen tax, a bribe from some corrupt but necessary third-party government official, or another required transfer fee like a licensing or registration fee.

Although the Nigerian advance-fee scam sounds unbelievable to some, many compassionate or greedy consumers have fallen for the convincing sob stories, the scammer’s politeness and professional presentation and their unequivocal promises of money. This scheme reportedly grosses millions of dollars annually and has resulted in beatings, threats and extortion, and in some cases, murder.

If you are solicited by email from someone claiming to need your help getting money out of any country, forward it to the FTC at spam@uce.gov. If you have been victimized by one of these types of schemes, report it to the legal office at (830) 298-5172 and contact the San Antonio Secret Service Field Office at (210) 308-6220.

Clinic urges use of 911 for possible heart attack

By Maj. Patricia Cifelli
47th Medical Operations Squadron

A heart attack (also called myocardial infarction) is when part of the heart muscle is damaged or dies because it isn’t receiving oxygen.

Oxygen is carried to the heart by the arteries. Most heart attacks are caused by a blockage in these arteries. Usually the blockage is caused by atherosclerosis, which is the buildup of fatty deposits called plaque inside the artery. This buildup is like the gunk that builds up in a drainpipe and slows the flow of water.

Heart attacks can also be caused by a blood clot that gets stuck in a narrow part of an artery to the heart. Clots are more likely to form where atherosclerosis has made an artery more narrow.

How do I know if I’m having a heart attack?

The pain of a heart attack can feel like bad heartburn. A person may also be having a heart attack if he:

- Feels a pressure or crushing pain in the chest, sometimes with sweating, nausea or vomiting.
- Feels pain that extends from the chest into the jaw, left arm or left shoulder.
- Feels tightness in the chest.
- Has shortness of breath for more than a couple of seconds.

Don’t ignore the pain or discomfort. If you think you are having heart problems or a heart attack, get help immediately. The sooner you get treatment, the greater the chance that the doctors can prevent further damage to the heart muscle.

What should I do if I think I am having a heart attack?

Call 911 for an ambulance to take you to the hospital right away, do not come to the 47th Medical Group as this will delay your care and treatment and could cause further damage to your heart. While you wait for the ambulance to come, chew one regular tablet of aspirin. Don’t take the aspirin if you’re allergic to aspirin.

In the hospital, you might be given “clot busters” that reopen the arteries to your heart very fast. Nurses and technicians will place an intravenous line in your arm to give you medicines. They will also do an electrocardiogram, give you oxygen to breathe and watch your heart rate and rhythm on a monitor.

Risk factors for a heart attack:

- Smoking
- Diabetes
- High cholesterol level
- High blood pressure
- Family history of heart attack
- Atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries)
- Lack of exercise
- Obesity

How can I avoid having a heart attack?

Talk to your family doctor about your specific risk factors for a heart attack and how to reduce your risk. Your doctor may tell you to do the following:

- Quit smoking. Your doctor can help.
- Eat a healthy diet. Cut back on foods

high in saturated fat and sodium to lower cholesterol and blood pressure. Ask your doctor to start you on a healthy eating plan.

■ If you have diabetes, control your blood sugar.

■ Exercise. This may be hard if you haven’t exercised for a while, but try to perform 30 minutes of aerobic exercise (raising your heart rate) at least four times a week.

■ If you’re overweight, lose weight. Your doctor can advise you about the best ways to lose weight.

■ If you have hypertension, control your blood pressure.

Talk to your doctor about whether aspirin would help reduce your risk of a heart attack. Aspirin can help keep your blood from forming clots that can eventually block the arteries.

If you are concerned about cost and are Tricare Prime, all life threatening conditions are covered by your insurance.

For more information, call Tricare at (800) 406-2832.

Assault, from page 5

This assessment is the next step of a journey that began in January 2003, when allegations of sexual assault at the U.S. Air Force Academy came to light. In March 2003, after multiple investigations into these allegations, the secretary and chief of staff implemented Agenda for Change. The Agenda for Change was a map for complete cultural change within the academy.

Over the course of 2003, two studies focusing on the sexual assault crisis at the academy were conducted. The Report of the Working Group Concerning Deterrence of and Response to Incidents of Sexual Assault at the U.S. Air Force Academy (Working Group Report) was delivered in June 2003. In a second study, former Rep. Tillie Fowler led a panel chartered by the U.S. Congress to review the actions of the academy and Air Force in response to allegations of sexual misconduct. The Report of the Panel to Review Sexual Misconduct Allegations at the U.S. Air Force Academy (Fowler Report) was released in September 2003.

The Air Force learned a great deal about sexual assault from its experiences with the academy. Consequently, during a four-star summit in the fall of 2003, Air Force senior leaders decided to look beyond the academy to determine whether the academy experience was an anomaly or existed Air Force-wide.

The Pacific Air Forces commander volunteered to do an assessment within the command. This assessment was limited to allegations of rape within the command and findings were presented to the next four-star summit in February. Based on the PACAF findings, Air Force leaders agreed on the necessity of an Air Force-wide assessment.

This assessment represents the culmination of an

18-month process. Although the learning process continues, the Air Force is comfortable drawing three overarching observations:

■ The sexual assault problem is much more complex than it seemed initially.

■ Sexual assault is a societal problem. Consequently, it is also an Air Force problem. There are no quick solutions to address sexual assault. It will require positive, ongoing efforts to foster and instill institutional change.

■ Commanders and leaders at all levels are key to the process of institutional change. Recognizing and understanding the sexual assault problem is challenging. Air Force commanders have been working this issue on a case-by-case basis rather than attacking it as a cultural and societal issue. The Air Force must do a better job of defining and understanding the crime of sexual assault and the behavior that spawns it.

“Finally, let me say that this is an issue that has to do with who we are as Airmen,” General Brady said.

“It has to do with our core values. And just as we talk about integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do, there is an important, vital component in each of those that has to do with respect,” he said. “When we have sexual assault, we have a clear lack of respect.

“Airmen come into the Air Force because they want to be part of a winning team,” the general said. “And to be a winning team every one of us – every man, every woman – has to be a full-up round. We cannot have a situation in which one Airman, for whatever reason, lives in fear of another. Winning teams do not operate that way”

The complete Report Concerning the Assessment of USAF Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, is available at www.af.mil/library/posture/SA_Assessment_Report.pdf.

Supply train to Iraq highlighted in AFTV News

SAN ANTONIO –The far-flung supply train for troops in Iraq headlines the latest edition of Air Force Television News.

AFTV News plays at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday on the Laughlin commander’s access channel, base cable channel 34.

Tech. Sgt. Angie Pianga goes to Moron, Spain, to show how active-duty, Air National Guard and Reserve Airmen are performing a vital role in getting people and equipment to and from Iraq. Tech. Sgt. Pachari Lutke is at Balad Air Base, Iraq, illustrating how the RQ-/MQ-1 Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle is helping provide security for the base.

Tech. Sgt. Joy Josephson goes to

a remote area of Wyoming to witness research on robotic vehicles being tested to keep Airmen out of harm’s way.

Army Sgt. Peter Rimer reports from Laos on continuing efforts to recover remains of those missing in action from the Vietnam War.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper takes the lead in urging Airmen worldwide to register to vote and then cast their ballots in the November election.

Sergeant Josephson is also at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., showing how entomologists there are fighting the annual battle against mosquitoes carrying the potentially deadly West Nile Virus.

Staff Sgt. Michael Noel updates the presidential mandate for deployment of an initial ballistic missile defense system, reporting from Vandenberg AFB, Calif., on progress there.

Staff Sgt. John Anderson goes to Bolling AFB, D.C., as teams teach motorcyclists the rules of the road and how to “ride alive.”

Tech. Sgt. Bill Scherer is in New England profiling an Air National Guardsman who uses her training at a local community television station to help in her job as multimedia manager for her unit.

Finally, Staff Sgt. Leigh Bellinger goes to Columbus AFB, Miss., where three-time Academy Award nominee

Morgan Freeman finally has his dream of a flight in an Air Force aircraft come true.

Air Force Television News is a bi-weekly production of Air Force News Service. It is distributed on videotape to more than 3,000 military and civilian outlets worldwide, and is seen on about 600 cable TV outlets nationwide. It is also available on the Internet at www.af.mil and can be regularly seen on The Pentagon Channel. The program is closed-captioned. Viewers can comment on the program by sending an e-mail to aftvnews@afnews.af.mil.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



Chapel holds 'back to school' party

By Senior Airman
Timothy J. Stein
Editor

With summer vacation over and Laughlin children back in school the chapel hosted a Kids' Block Party to celebrate going back to school.

The party, organized by members of both Protestant congregations with help from the Catholic congregation, was open to all base members Sunday.

Activities ranged from face painting to bounce castles. Additionally, families listened to live music provided by the Laughlin Praise Band, ate

hot dogs and drank lemonade. Children attending were also presented with a school goody bag consisting of pens, pencils, sharpeners and paper.

"It was great event," said Rebecca Weldon, party organizer. "The turn out was amazing. It is wonderful to see so many families turning out for a day of fun and games. It was a great joint effort by everyone involved."

During the festivities, the chapel also registered children for Sunday School, Kingdom Kids, G-Force and a new youth group.

For more information on chapel activities, call 298-5111.



(Above) Cormac Mullin, 6 month old son of Trasi and Lt. Col. Brian Mullin, 47th Operations Support Squadron, naps in the shade during the Kids' Block Party at the chapel Sunday.



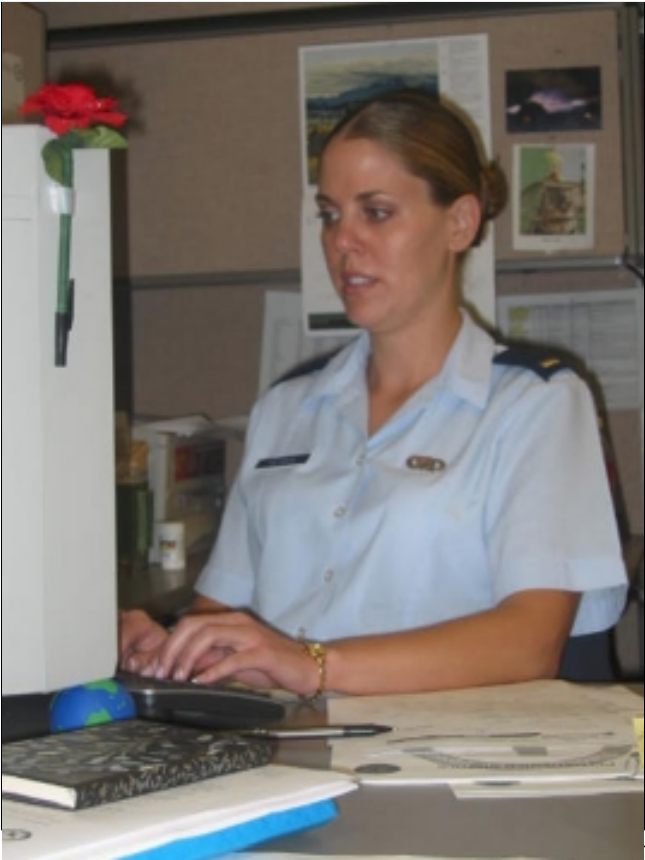
All photos by 2nd Lt. Sheila Johnston

(Above) Children slide on the bounce castle at the Kids' Block Party at the chapel Sunday. Around 400 people attended the event. (Left) Pam Calvert, wife of Maj. Rex Calvert, 86th Flying Training Squadron, paints the face of Casey Covert, daughter of Marcy and Maj. Bill Covert, 86th FTS.

The *XLer*

2nd Lt. Julie Heiman
47th Comptroller Squadron

Hometown: Fresno, Calif.
Family: Mom, Marsha; dad, Larry; brother, Greg; dog, Lucky
Time at Laughlin: One year, eight months
Time in service: One year, 11 months
Hobbies: Reading, watching movies, cross stitching and traveling
Greatest accomplishment: Earning my commission
Bad habit: Worrying too much
Favorite movies: *The Mirror Has Two Faces*, *Old School* and *My Best Friend's Wedding*
If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? My grandmother, she died before I was born.



Interested in
the Air Force?

Call Del Rio's
Air Force recruiter
at 774-0911.

Chapel information

Catholic

- Monday - Friday* ● Mass, 12:05 p.m.
- Saturday* ● Reconciliation, 4:15 p.m.or
by appointment
● Mass, 5 p.m.
- Sunday* ● Mass 9:30 a.m.,
● Religious Education, 11 a.m.
- Thursday* ● Choir: 6 p.m.
● Rite of Christian Initiation,
7:30 p.m.

Protestant

- Wednesday* ● Protestant Women of the Chapel
Ladies’ Bible Study, 9 a.m.
● Choir, 7 p.m.
- Sunday* ● Contemporary worship, 9 a.m.
in the base theater
● General worship (a blend of
Liturgical and contemporary
worship), 11 a.m.

Chaplain Staff

- Wing chaplain:* Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Lim,
Roman Catholic
- Senior Protestant:* Chap. (Capt.) Terri Gast,
Presbyterian Church, USA
- Protestant:* Chap. (Capt.) Alex Jack,
Independent Christian Church
- Protestant:* Chap. (Capt.) Kenneth Fisher,
Evangelical Church Alliance

For more information on other denominations, chapel events or services, call 298-5111. For information on special events, see the Community Calendar on page 16.



Photo by Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein

Boys and their toys ...

(Left) John Orris, Boeing T-38 field service representative, and Lt. Col. Bruce Wright, 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron aerospace physiology flight commander, check out the engine of Mr. Orris’ 1969 Corvete during the Hot August Nights Car and Bike show at Club Amistad Aug. 27.

Sportslines

Equipment classes

The Fitness Center holds exercise equipment training classes every Tuesday at 1 p.m. and every Thursday at 5 p.m.

The training is offered on exercise and cardio equipment to individuals who would like the learn the basics of the equipment.

To sign up for a class or for more information, call 298-5251.

Flag football sign up

Letters of intent for flag football teams are due to the fitness center by Sept. 15.

For more information, call 298-5251.

Andale Del Rio

Andale Del Rio, an annual health and fitness community event, will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Sept. 18 at Buena Vista Park on Fox Drive in Del Rio.

Activities include a health and fitness fair, children’s car seat inspections, basketball shoot, canine demonstrations and walking and running events.

People interested in volunteering to help may call 298-6464.

Sit-up competition

The fitness center is holding a sit-up competition at 1 p.m. Sept. 23.

Participants competes as a two-person team in either the men’s, women’s or coed division.

For more information, call 298-5251.

Laughlin quarterly fitness stats

(Air Force goal is 58 percent of base tested)

Squadron	Percent Complete
47th Medical Group	60%
47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron	95%
47th Medical Operations Squadron	84%
47th Medical Support Squadron	97%
47th Operations Group	53%
47th Operations Support Squadron	59%
84th Flying Training Squadron	44%
85th FTS	61%
86th FTS	68%
87th FTS	42%
47th Mission Support Group	67%
47th Mission Support Squadron and	
47th Flying Training Wing staff agencies	72%
47th Comptroller Squadron	62%
47th Sercurity Forces Squadron	48%
47th Civil Engineer Squadron	55%
47th Contracting Squadron	60%
47th Communications Squadron	58%



Runners round a corner near the finish line. The race featured a 5 kilometer running course.



Participates suit up for the bike portion of the race after the 100 meter swim.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi

(Above) Pam Calvert begins the bike portion of the race. The competitors had to bike 10 kilometers. (Below) Mike Chmielewski, who took second place overall, paddles it out during the swimming portion of the race.



25 XLers turn out for Labor Day Triathlon

By Senior Airman
Timothy J. Stein
Editor

Twenty five Laughlin members participated in the Labor Day Weekend Triathlon held at The XL Fitness Center Saturday.

The event started with a 100 meter swim followed by a 10 kilometer bike ride and a 5 kilometer run.

First place finishers were awarded MP3 players and second place finishers were given air pumps.

Daniel Schreck took first

place for the men with a time of 47 minutes, thirteen seconds. Mike Chmielewski came in second with a time of 47:35.

Joan Fuhrer took first place for the women with a time of 53:24 and Emely Rodriguez came in second at 54:11.